



Purposes of LOAC



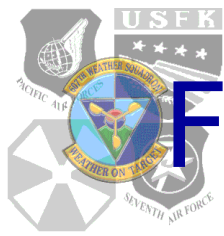
- Limit damages and casualties.
 - Safeguard fundamental human rights and avoid unnecessary suffering.
 - Make it easier to restore peace after the conflict.
 - Maintain public support by using military resources in a humane manner.
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LOAC Protection



- Lawful combatants: wear uniform and carry arms openly.
 - Noncombatants: civilians and certain military personnel (chaplains and medics) and POWs.
 - No protection for unlawful combatants: terrorists, spies and civilians who take up arms.
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Fundamental LOAC Principles



- Necessity: only take actions necessary to accomplish valid military objective.
 - Proportionality: use only the force necessary to accomplish that military objective.
 - Chivalry: fight honorably
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Necessity in Targeting



- Lawful targets: combatants; military installations; military aircraft; infrastructure that supports the war effort.
 - Unlawful targets: hospitals; churches; schools; cultural objects; chaplains; parachutists; POWs.
 - Can lose status as unlawful target if you use facility for military purpose.
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Proportionality



- Use only that amount of force necessary for mission accomplishment:
 - Limits on types of weapons.
 - Limits on how we use weapons.
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Types of Weapons

- Lawful weapons: full metal jacket small arms ammunition; napalm; explosives.
 - Unlawful weapons: poisons; biological weapons; hollow point bullets; chemical weapons.
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Unlawful Use of Military Weapon



- Using any weapon in a way that the damage to civilians clearly outweighs military gain.
 - Altering weapon to cause more damage or suffering.
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Chivalry



- Forbids treacherous acts:
 - Perfidy.
 - Using enemy uniforms to attack.
 - Marking command post with red cross.
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Prisoners of War

- Army responsible for POW camps.
 - Geneva Conventions protect POW:
 - Treatment;
 - Questioning;
 - Medical care;
 - Labor;
 - Discipline.
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Treatment of POWs



- Protect from attack from any combatants.
 - POW camps must be marked and are protected from attack by LOAC.
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LOAC Enforcement



- US law (UCMJ and federal law).
 - International Tribunals.
 - Public Opinion.
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Individual LOAC Responsibilities



- “Superior Orders” defense is no defense.
 - Didn’t work at Nuremberg trials.
 - Must take steps to prevent others from violating LOAC.
 - Report LOAC violations (command channels, chaplain, JAG).
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Examples of LOAC Violations



- Maltreatment of POWs or civilians.
 - Fighting in uniform of enemy.
 - Improper use of white flag or red cross.
 - Weapons stored with medical supplies.
 - Improper use of symbol destroys protected status.
 - Targeting cultural property.
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Questions?

